GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1227
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000
JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT
BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the guidelines revised in 1990 on Joint Forest Management (JFM) have been implemented in all the States; and

(b) if so, whether an assessment of the people`s involvement in forest conservation programme in the current decade has been made with reference to the area of additional forest cover achieved during this period and causes for dwindling forest wealth?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(A) & (B) As per the provisions of National Forest Policy, 1988, Government of Indiahad issued guidelines to the state governments on June 1, 1990 for involving village communities in regeneration and protection of degraded forest lands under the Joint Forest Management (JFM).Till now 22 states have accepted the concept of Joint Forest Management and have issued Government resolutions in this regard. After a review, on February 21, 2000 the government has issued fresh guidelines to the state governments for strengthening JFM.As reported by the state governments, so far 10.249 million ha. forest area is being managed under the Joint Forest Management and 36,130 JFM Committees have been constituted in 22 states.Though no assessment of the people`s involvement in forest conservation programme in the current decade has been made with reference to the area of additional forest cover achieved during this period, there are indications in this direction. Main causes of dwindling forest wealth are increased biotic pressure, shifting cultivation and smuggling of timber due to increased market price etc. However Government has taken steps to contain this trend which include involvement of communities in protection of forests, strengthening of state forest protection machinery etc.